

Peru - Macaws & Machu Picchu

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 September - 13 October 2012



Cock-of-the-rock by Dave Scott



Vermilion Flycatcher by Dave Scott



Green and white Hummingbird by Dave Scott



Machu Picchu by Alan Graham

Report compiled by Jose Antonio Padilla
Images courtesy of Alan Graham and Dave Scott



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| | Renato | Local Guide - coast |
| | Oscar & Ruben | Local Guides- Tambopata |
| | Willian Huaman | Local Guide - Manu Cloud Forest |
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|---------------|------------------|
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| | John Davison |
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| Alan Graham | |

Day 1

Wednesday 26th September

Most of the group arrived in Lima on schedule in the early evening, and met Renato our local guide. Alan arrived in Lima on a different flight that came from La Paz-Bolivia. David and Christine Taylor arrived in Lima a day early. All together we were transferred to our comfortable hotel in the fashionable suburb of Miraflores, the Jose Antonio Hotel. Gary and Gail were due to arrive and be picked up in Lima the next morning.

Day 2

Thursday 27th September

After a leisurely breakfast we drove to the Pantanos de Villa marshland reserve on the southern limits of the sprawling Lima conurbation. We stopped on the way and had great views of Peruvian Thick-Knees. In a short time we saw a wide range of birds – a good start! Next we drove south along the coast to the small fishing village of Pucusana. Here we took a short boat ride around the harbour and enjoyed excellent views of hundreds of Inca Terns, Peruvian Boobies and Peruvian Pelicans, etc, and several impressive South American Sea Lions. Then, we continued on the Pan-American Highway south of Lima and stopped in an excellent restaurant where a delicious fresh lunch completed the morning. A Peruvian Red-breasted Meadowlark was seen perched on an electric wire outside the restaurant. After lunch, we went for a little walk around and got some good birds.

During the afternoon we continued south along the desert coast on the Pan-American highway, marvelling both at the abject barrenness of much of the landscape and at the remarkable range of crops that are grown in the oasis valleys. We pushed on to Paracas where we arrived a little after sunset and settled in for a two-night stay.

Birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

White-cheeked Pintail
 Ruddy Andean Duck
 Great Grebe
 Peruvian Diving-Petrel
 Peruvian Booby
 Neotropic Cormorant
 Red-legged Cormorant
 Little Blue Heron
 Cattle Egret
 Black-Crowned Night Heron
 Black Vulture
 Cinereous Harrier
 Roseate Spoonbill
 Black-chested Buzzard Eagle
 Peregrine Falcon
 Purple Gallinule
 Andean Coot
 American Oystercatcher
 Peruvian Thick-Knee
 Whimbrel
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Sanderling
 Belcher's Gull
 Gray-headed Gull
 Inca Tern
 Eared Dove
 Croaking Ground Dove
 Burrowing Owls
Surf Cinclodes *
 Many-coloured Rush-Tyrant
 Tropical Kingbird
 Barn Swallows
 Long-tailed Mockingbird
 Cinereous Conebill
 Peruvian Red-breasted Meadowlark
 Shiny Blackbird

Cinnamon Teal
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Humboldt Penguin
 Peruvian Pelican
 Blue-footed Booby
 Guanay Cormorant
 Great Egret
 Snowy Egret
 Striated Heron
 Puna Ibis
 Turkey Vulture
 Wilson's Storm Petrel
 Harris's Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Plumbeous Rail
 Common Moorhen
 Blackish Oystercatcher
 Black-necked Stilt
 Killdeer
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Surfbird
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Kelp Gull
 Gray Gull
 Rock Dove
 West Peruvian Dove
 Groove-billed Ani
 Amazilia Hummingbird
 Wren-Like Rushbird
 Vermilion Flycatcher
 Blue & White Swallows
 House Wren
 Saffron Finch
 Yellow-hooded Blackbird
 Scrub Blackbird
 House Sparrow

72 species - in just one day!

Day 3

Friday 28th September

Early this morning and before breakfast, we gathered just outside our beautiful hotel in Paracas, and get some extraordinary birds along the beach, including a large flock of Chilean Flamingos. The rest of the day was spent around Ica, where some people took the flight over the Nazca Lines, while we went in search of the special birds of Peru's coastal desert and oases. We were pleased to see one of the local feral populations of Pacific Parrotlets, and amazing views of the Peruvian Pygmy Owl, just behind the airport at Ica. Amazilia and Oasis Hummingbirds and Purple-collared Woodstar were also around and a Peruvian Sheartail came to feed in some local flowers. We then went to see how the local people make Pisco, a Peruvian liqueur made out of grapes. After picking up the people that did their flight over the Nazca lines, we went to Huacachina Lake, an oasis in the middle of the Peruvian desert where we had a delicious lunch, well deserved after an excellent and exciting morning.

In the afternoon we went to the Dunas Hotel, one of the best places around to look for the Peruvian endemic Black throated Woodpecker. After some walking around the grounds of the hotel and just before we were about to leave, the woodpecker came and perched right in front of us on a tree in front of the van! This was another good reason to celebrate later back at the hotel...

New birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemic

Andean Condor, seen only by the people that did the flight over the Nazca Lines.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chilean Flamingo | Black-bellied Plover |
| Semipalmated Plover | Snowy Plover |
| Greater Yellowlegs | Willet |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | Peruvian Tern |
| Elegant Tern | Scarlet-Fronted Parakeet |
| Pacific Parrotlets | Peruvian Pygmy Owl |
| Oasis Hummingbird | Peruvian Sheartail |
| Purple-collared Woodstar | Black-necked Woodpecker* |
| Coastal Miner | Rufous-collared Sparrow |
| Hooded Siskin | |

Total 20 species

Day 4

Saturday 29th September

What a morning this was! Bright and early we were on the quay, catching our boat for the Ballestas Islands, going past the unexplained candelabra geoglyph etched into a coastal desert headland, and on to the remarkable, bird-laden islands. On our way out we scanned the sea for Diving-Petrels and Storm-Petrels. The islands are mind-turning in their majesty. Every ledge, every crack, every nook is taken. Humboldt Penguins and Inca Terns line the lowest reaches, above them on the slopes are uncountable thousands of Peruvian Boobies, and on the islands' flat tops are unimaginable hordes of Guanay Cormorants.

Here and there, for theatrical effect, are Red-legged Cormorants and Surf Cinclodes, while beneath the water line, visible when the swell falls, are millions of mussels and their predators: shocking orange starfish and dusky sunstars, and we had great views of Southern Sea-Lions too.

Before lunch we visited an area of a small population of Huarango trees, a type of South American Acacia, where we found and had great views of Slender-billed Finches and Short-tailed Field-Tyrants. Then we went to the Paracas National Reserve and the Bay of Lagunillas where a Royal Tern fished, a Snowy Plover stood sentinel on a platform of rock and a Surfbird picked through the seaweed with a posse of Ruddy Turnstones.

In the afternoon we returned to Lima, after our exciting days along the coast of Peru, ready for our journey to Amazonia the following day.

New birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemic

Sooty Shearwater

Least Sandpiper

Royal Tern

Black Skimmer

Slender-billed Finch

White-vented Storm-Petrel

Laughing Gull

South American Tern

Short-Tailed Field-tyrant

Total: 9 species

Day 5

Sunday 30th September

We flew this morning to Puerto Maldonado to catch our boat for Tambopata. Here we were met by our excellent local guides Oscar and Ruben. We drove a short distance out of town to the office just to repack for our days in the jungle. Along the dirt road to the native community of Infierno, we stopped few times and got some good jungle birds like Lettered Araçari, White-necked Jacobin, Dusky-headed Parakeets, etc. a very good start for this part of the trip. Then we took our motorized canoe along the Tambopata River, eating lunch from banana leaf plates, whilst looking at the splendid selection of common Amazon critters to be seen. Flocks of Chestnut-fronted Macaws were overhead, Capped Herons crouched under overhanging trees, high above were Black and Turkeys Vultures, and Fork-tailed Palm-Swifts strafed the river.

At Posada Amazonas birds were everywhere. As soon as we'd checked into our rooms we were watching Yellow-billed Nunbird in a nearby Cecropia tree by the dining room. As dusk fell they were joined by the sound of Speckled Chachalacas. Dusky Titi Monkeys and Brown Agoutis were there too. It is really amazing to be in the Amazon!

New Birds Seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Capped Heron | Plumbeous Kite |
| Red-Throated Caracara | Red and Green Macaws |
| Chestnut-Fronted Macaws | Dusky-Headed Parakeets |
| Blue-Headed Parrots | Mealy Parrots |
| Squirrel Cuckoo | Smooth-billed Ani |
| Tawny-bellied Screech Owl | Ladder-tailed Nightjar |
| Fork-tailed Palm-Swifts | White-necked Jacobin |
| Black-Fronted Nunbird | Yellow-billed Nunbird |
| Lettered Araçari | Chestnut-eared Araçari |
| Curl-crested Araçari | Crimson-crested Woodpecker |
| Boat-billed Flycatcher | Violaceous Jay |
| Grey-breasted Martin | White-banded Swallow |
| Southern-rough Winged-Swallow | Black-billed Thrush |
| Silver-beaked Tanager | Blue-gray Tanager |
| Greyish Saltator | Russet-Backed Oropendula |
| Olive Oropendula | Yellow-Rumped Cacique |
| Troupial | |

Total: 33 new species

Day 6**Monday 1st October**

Early this morning we took to the water on a raft, to visit a serene oxbow lake called "Tres Chimbadas". Before we reached the lake we walked through the forest which was full of birds, and a little patch of bamboo on the way allowed us to get some bamboo specialists and more. Once we got to the lake, Hoatzins wheezed from the trees, and swimming on the lake we were delighted to see a Sungebe. Meanwhile clumsy Pale-vented Pigeons clung to lake-side trees and Blue-headed Parrots flapped overhead. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see the Giant Otters that inhabitant the lake, but nothing is guaranteed in the jungle...

In the afternoon we journeyed further upriver, into the forest, to Tambopata Research Centre (TRC). The further we went the more exciting the wildlife-watching became; White-winged and White-banded Swallows skimmed the water's surface, Pied Lapwings patrolled the beaches, Cocoli Herons and splendid Horned Screemers stood at the top of the trees, and overhead we started to see large macaws: Scarlets and Blue-and-Yellows. A Family of Orinoco Geese on the way up river left us all surprised! The mammals were good too: Capybaras were on the beaches, and licking clay from a steep bank was an absurdly tame family of Red Howler Monkeys. And just before we got to TRC, two burrowing Owls were spotted on one of the islands made by the meandering Tambopata River. Another fantastic day in the jungle! We stayed the night at TRC.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Horned Screamer | Orinoco Goose |
| Blue-throated Piping Guan | Anhinga |
| Cocoi Heron | Rufescent Tiger Heron |
| Greater Yellow-headed Vulture | King Vulture |
| Osprey | Gray Hawk |
| Roadside Hawk | Black Caracara |
| Bat Falcon | Pale-winged Trumpeter |
| Sungrebe | Wattled Jacana |
| Collared Plover | Pied Lapwing |
| Large-billed Terns | Pale-Vented Pigeons |
| Gray-fronted Dove | Blue and Yellow Macaws |
| Scarlet Macaws | White-eyed Parakeets |
| Cobalt-winged Parakeets | Yellow-crowned Parrots |
| Hoatzin | Greater Ani |
| Sand-Coloured Nighthawks | Common Pauraque |
| Gray-rumped Swifts | Black Tailed Trogon |
| Ringed Kingfisher | Amazon Kingfisher |
| Green Kingfisher | Blue-crowned Motmot |
| Bluish-fronted Jacamar | Striolated Puffbird |
| Swallow wing | Gilded Barbet |
| Ivory-billed Araçari | Channel-billed Toucan |
| Little Woodpecker | White-browed Antbird |
| Silvered Antbird | Black-Spotted Bare-eye |
| Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher | Drab-water Tyrant |
| Long-tailed Tyrant | Eastern Kingbird |
| Variiegated Flycatcher | Great Kiskadee |
| Black-tailed Tityra | Bare-necked Fruitcrow |
| White-winged Swallows | Palm Tanager |
| Yellow-browed Sparrow | Crested Oropendula |
| Epaulet Oriole | Giant Cowbirds |

Total 60 species

Day 7**Tuesday 2nd October**

Before dawn we were on a river island, and settled into pole-position seats for watching the spectacle of the collpa. There were of course plenty of parrots to see: at the big end were lots of Blue-and-Yellow and a few Scarlet Macaws, at the little end were White-bellied Parrots (wonderfull!) and Blue-headed Parrots, and in the middle were countless Mealies, Yellow-crowned, screeching Red-bellied Macaws and scraping Chestnut-fronted Macaws – wonderful!

After some action and later in the morning we were lucky to see Blue-headed Macaws, a poorly known species, which arrived first on the trees and were seen later on the clay lick. After this we were ready for a walk into forest, so we decided to split the group in two. The birders and I went into a nice, old, primary forest and ended up in a nice patch of bamboo. Here we got a bunch of very good birds, including the Amazonian Royal Flycatcher. A nice troop of Peruvian Spider Monkeys were also seen on the way.

Back at the lodge we had lunch, and got ready for an afternoon walk into the forest. In the afternoon we were rewarded with encounters of a magnificent Crested Owl, and White-throated Jacamar on a lookout point by the clay lick, what a fantastic bird for the end of our stay at TRC.

New birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemic

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Speckled Chachalaca | Spix's Guan |
| Razor-billed Curassow | Grey-necked Wood Rail |
| Red-bellied Macaws | Blue Headed Macaws |
| White-bellied Parrots | Orange Checked Parrots |
| Crested Owl | Pale-rumped Swift |
| Rufous-breasted Hermit | White-bearded Hermit |
| Fork-tailed Woodnymph | Rufous Motmot |
| White-throated Jacamar | White throated Toucan |
| Spot-breasted Woodpecker | Buff-throated Woodcreeper |
| Pale-legged Hornero | Chestnut-winged Foliage Gleaner |
| Spot-winged Antshrike | Bluish-slate Antshrike |
| Striated Antbird | Black-faced Antbird |
| Warbling Antbird | Chestnut-tailed Antbird |
| Black-faced Antthrush | Royal Flycatcher |
| Swainson's Flycatcher | Social Flycatcher |
| White-browed Purpletuft | Round-tailed Manakin |
| Dwarf-tyrant Manakin | Thick-billed Euphonia |
| Turquoise Tanager | Paradise Tanager |
| Green and Gold Tanager | Green Honeycreeper |
| Red Capped Cardinal | Buff-rumped Warbler |

Total 40 species

Day 8

Wednesday 3rd October

Like yesterday we split the group again, the clay lick was so amazing the day before that some people wanted to repeat the show! As for the rest of us, we went for our final walk in the jungle. Back at the lodge for breakfast we all shared experiences about our morning activities, and after breakfast we got ready and left Tambopata Research Center and moved downriver to Refugio Amazonas, where a nice drink welcomed us and we checked in to the rooms. In the afternoon we explored the forest here and ended up in the splendid canopy tower, seeing very good birds, including Pavonine Quetzal, Semicollared Puffbird, Black-faced Sntbird, Paradise Tanager, etc, etc, a fine end to the day.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Great Black Hawk | Ruddy Quail Dove |
| Reddish Hermit | Pavonine Quetzal |
| Semicollared Puffbird | White-fronted Nunbird |
| Yellow-tufted Woodpecker | Wedge-billed Woodcreeper |
| Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper | Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper |
| Elegant Woodcreeper | Dusky-throated Antshrike |
| Rufous-capped Antthrush | Little Ground Tyrant |
| Crowned Slaty Flycatcher | Streaked Flycatcher |
| Piratic Flycatcher | Lesser Kiskadee |
| Purple Throated Cotinga | Plum-throated Cotinga |
| Hauxwell's Thrush | Guira Tanager |
| Red-Crowned Ant-Tanager | Blue Dacnis |
| Black Faced Dacnis | |

Total 25 species

Day 9**Thursday 4th October**

This morning's aim was to reach Cusco - so, delighted to have seen so much spectacular wildlife, we said goodbye to our brilliant friends Oscar and Ruben and left Amazonia to our next destination - the Andes and Cusco.

We were met in Cusco by a local guide, Arturo, who was delightful and talented. In the afternoon we toured the Inca city with him. They all admired the Korikancha and the Plaza de Armas, where some local activities were taking place. Just Chiguanco Thrush and a Rufous-collared Sparrow (bizarrely in the Plaza de Armas) were added to our list this afternoon.

Birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemics**

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Lesser Yellowlegs | Ruddy Ground Dove |
| Amazonian Swift | Chiguanco Thrush |
| Blue-Backed Gassquit | |

Total 5 species

Day 10**Friday 5th October**

The city of Cusco was the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. This magnificent city is located in the middle of the Peruvian Andes at 3,300 meters above sea level. Today we did an interesting tour to see the highlights of the Incas legacy and of course to see some of the Andean birds that are found around. We started birding along a eucalyptus forest just outside the city seeing goods birds including some Peruvian endemics like: Creamy-crested Spinetail, Chestnut-breasted Mountain-finch and Rusty-fronted Canastero. What an excellent start!

After some time birding in the morning, we got ready to visit the site of Sacsayhuaman, an Inca fortress built using huge stones, and used by the Incas to protect the city when the Spanish were trying to invade Cusco. Arturo was excellent explaining the facts of this site. Going easy, everyone was able to enjoy that walk despite the altitude.

After that we continued our way to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, an amazing landscape that includes a fertile valley where the locals are still farming the way they did hundreds years ago. We headed down to the Andean town of Pisac, where we went to the local market and bought some local crafts. After some leisure time in the market we headed up to the Inca site of Pisac, where Inca mummies were found, a place where that remains almost intact after so many years. After another excellent explanation from Arturo, we went birding around, where there were some nicotiana shrubs, better know as tobacco plant, and got the fantastic Peruvian endemic "Bearded Mountaineer" a hummingbird considered one of the most beautiful in the world.

Picnic lunch was awaiting us, delicious...and after lunch we started to head down to Lake Huacarpay, a marshland area located only 45 minutes away from Cusco. We got there in the afternoon and the activity was good. We got some very good lake birds, and enjoyed a fantastic sunset at the end of another beautiful day. Back in Cusco we had a nice dinner, and were ready for the cloudforest part of the trip.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Specked Teal | Yellow-billed Pintail |
| Puna Teal | White-tufted Grebe |
| Black-faced Ibis | Mountain Caracara |
| Aplomado Falcon | Andean Lapwing |
| Andean Gull | Spot-winged Pigeon |
| Bare-faced Ground Dove | Giant Hummingbird |
| Black-tailed Trainbearer | Bearded Mountaineer* |
| Tyrian Metaltail | Andean Flicker |
| Bar-winged Cinclodes | Creamy-crested Spinetail* |
| Rusty-fronted Canastero* | Streak-fronted Thornbird |
| Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant | White-browed Chat-Tyrant |
| Brown-bellied Swallow | Blue-Yellow Tanager |
| Black-throated Flowerpiercer | Peruvian Sierra Finch |
| Ash-breasted Sierra Finch | Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch* |
| Greenish Yellow Finch | Band-tailed Seed eater |
| Yellow-winged Blackbird | |

Total 31 species

Day 11

Saturday 6th October

We set off from Cusco shortly after dawn and began the journey across the mountains to the Manu Valley. After a while we began to climb and our route took us steadily upwards until eventually we found ourselves on high puna grassland, deserted save for occasional remote farmsteads and herds of llamas and sheep.

This is a marginal place, cold and bleak, but a series of short stops still brought us sightings of a range of high altitude birds. Once over the first pass we dropped back down into more inhabited zones and by one small village we found Rufous-webbed Ground-Tyrant at the roadside, and a group of Spot-winged Pigeons, whilst at our lunch spot by a stream in a scrubby valley we saw Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch.

Continuing on through the afternoon, we dropped down to the town of Paucartambo before climbing again to the high Acjanaco Pass. This is the gateway to Manu and, in a matter of a few hundred metres, we passed from the arid western side of the Andes to the humid east. We left behind the dry inter-Andean valleys and before us, largely hidden in cloud, lay lush, forested mountains and hills dropping away to the Amazonian lowlands far below. A spectacular view and a stunningly abrupt transformation!

A short walk in the scrub and elfin forest below the pass produced Brown-backed Chat-Tyrants and lovely Moustached Flowerpiercers. We finished the afternoon winding our way down the Manu Road through apparently endless forested hairpins and enjoyed wonderful views of a number of very exciting new birds en-route. We finally arrived at Cock of the Rock Lodge a little after dark – it had been a long but hugely interesting and rewarding day.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Torrent Duck | Andean Guan |
| Puna Hawk | Band-Tailed Pigeon |
| Andean Pygmy Owl | Lyre-Tailed Nightjar |
| Shinning Sunbeam | Collared Inca |
| Violet Throated Starfrontlet | Amethyst Throated Sunangel |
| Rufous Capped Thornbill | Wedge-billed Hummingbird |
| Blue-Banded Toucanet | Trilling Tapaculo |
| Sierran Elaenia | White-throated Tyrannulet |
| White-banded Tyrannulet | Torrent Tyrannulet |
| Rufous-Breasted Chat Tyrant | Brown-backed Chat Tyrant |
| Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant | Andean Negrito |
| White-winged Black Tyrant | Golden-crowned Flycatcher |
| Red-crested Cotinga | Great Thrush |
| Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager | Rusty Flowerpiercer |
| Moustached Flowerpiercer | Masked Flowerpiercer |
| Mourning Sierra Finch | Band-Tailed Sierra Finch |
| Golden-billed Saltator | Spectacled Redstart |

Total 34 species

Day 12

Sunday 7th October

We were up and breakfasting with the hummingbirds again at first light. With breakfast completed we set off but got delayed in the parking area by a mixed feeding flock, with excellent birds in it.

We headed up the valley to explore some higher altitude forest. We drove along and made various stops and had one lengthy walk down the road and encountered a great variety of birds in consistently beautiful surroundings. A large mixed flock kept us occupied for some time – not bad for a morning!

After lunch, a siesta, and some nice views of a Speckled Hummingbird in the garden, we set off again, this time on foot. We covered a fair distance strolling gently up the valley and had a good time, finding a close pair of Green Jays, a distant troop of Woolly Monkeys making their way through the trees on the other side of the valley and, outstandingly, a superb male Crested Quetzal, perched up in full view right by the road, eating tiny little wild avocados.

New birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemic

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Solitaire Eagle | Black and Chestnut Eagle |
| Plumbeous Pigeon | Scaly Naped Parrots |
| Chestnut Collared Swifts | Sparkling Violetear |
| Wire-crested Thorntail | Speckled Hummingbird |
| Booted Racket-tail | Long-tailed Sylph |
| White-bellied Woodstar | Crested Quetzal |
| Highland Motmot | Azara's Spinetail |
| Mountain Foliage-gleaner | Streak-necked Flycatcher |
| Black Phoebe | Lemmon browed Flycatcher |
| Andean Cock of the Rock | Green Jay |
| White capped dipper | Bananaquit |
| Common Bush Tanager | Yellow throated bush tanager |
| Orange bellied Euphonia | Golden Tanager |
| Saffron crowned Tanager | Golden-naped Tanager |
| Blue-necked Tanager | Swallow Tanager |
| Deep Blue Flowerpiercer | Slate-Throated Redstart |
| Three-Striped Warbler | Dusky Green Oropendula |
| Olivaceous Siskin | |

Total: 35 species

Day 13

Monday 8th October

Our day began at dawn with sensational views of lekking Cock-of-the-Rocks just a few hundred yards from the lodge and continued over breakfast with a range of Hummingbirds, including the fantastic Wire-crested Thorntail that visits the garden. We spent much of the rest of the day driving down the valley to the town of Pilcopata and then back up again with stops and short explorations at various altitudes. It rapidly became hot and bird activity was subdued but a variety of notable birds were seen nonetheless.

We finished the day back at CORL under a dark, brooding sky. Some went back to see the Cock-of-the-Rocks again whilst others explored closer at hand. Both groups had good success, with wonderful views in particular of a lovely mixed flock of tanagers...a good end to another satisfying day.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fasciated Tiger Heron | Double Tooted Kite |
| White Collared Swifts | Green Hermit |
| Violet Fronted Brilliant | Olive-Backed Woodcreeper |
| Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser | Streaked Xenops |
| Chestnut-Backed Antshrike | Striped-chested Antwren |
| White-backed Fire-eye | Bolivian Tyrannulet |
| Mottled-backed Elaenia | Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet |
| Scaled-crested Pygmy Tyrant | Yellow-breasted Flycatcher |
| Cinnamon Flycatcher | Western Wood-Pewee |
| Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher | Gray-capped Flycatcher |
| Yungas Manakin | Magpie Tanager |
| Blue-naped Chlorophonia | Orange-eared Tanager |
| Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch | Buff throated Saltator |
| Two-banded Warbler | Golden-bellied Warbler |

Total 28 species

Day 14

Tuesday 9th October

Leaving the lodge shortly after dawn we began the drive back across the mountains to Cusco. We took our time as we climbed up and out of the Manu cloudforest and made a series of stops to try to see some more of the higher altitude birds. It was an enjoyable morning and we had some success, with good sightings. We made a brief stop at the Ajanaco Pass and noted more Shining Sunbeams and three species of Flowerpiercers and then continued our journey through the afternoon. We made a few brief stops en-route which brought us some good views of Variable Hawks and Bar-winged Cinclodes and arrived back in Cusco at the end of the afternoon. Back in Cusco we said goodbye to our excellent local guide Willian Huaman.

New birds seen today:

***Peruvian Endemic**

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Least Grebe | Green Violetear |
| Great Sapphirewing | Golden-headed Quetzal |
| Versicolored Barbet | Golden-olive Woodpecker |
| Pearled Treerunner | Mottled Checked Tyrannulet |
| Smoke Collared Pewee | Slaty-backed chat-tyrant |
| Mountain wren | Great-breasted wood-wren |
| Andean Solitaire | Black-eared Hemispingus |
| Bay-headed Tanager | Blue-black Tanager |
| Russet-crowned Warbler | |

Total 17 species

Day 15

Wednesday 10th October

We set off from Cusco again with Arturo, the guide that had previously joined us in the city. Just before dawn we went by bus to Poroy and there transferred to the early morning train to Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu. The first part of the journey was across fairly flat arable fields interspersed with farms and small villages but after a while the mountains closed in around us. Soon we were surrounded by towering peaks whilst closely following the tumbling, boulder-strewn course of the mighty Urubamba River. This was Torrent Duck country and we were on Red Alert! We hastily organised ourselves for the challenge and in no time found the first of our quarry, a pair of handsome and charismatic ducks perched on a boulder mid-stream. A watch was kept right through to Aguas Calientes and the final score stood at 23, an impressive total indeed. We also spotted several White-capped Dippers.

Once off the train in bustling Aguas Calientes we checked in at our hotel and then caught the shuttle bus up to the entrance to Machu Picchu. After lunch in the restaurant by the entrance we walked into Machu Picchu itself and Arturo led us on a thorough and informative guided tour of this most inspiring of places. Occasional White-tipped Swifts hurtled around overhead, a male White-winged Black-Tyrant showed very well and Vizcachas scuttled over the rocks...but the ruins themselves rightly took pride of place and everyone was suitably awed and impressed. Finally, towards the end of the afternoon, with a spectacular double rainbow arcing across the Urubamba Valley we caught the bus back down into Aguas Calientes to our luxurious hotel.

New birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemic

Broad-winged Hawk

White-tipped Swifts

Chestnut-breasted Coronet

Red-eyed Vireo

Rust and yellow Tanager

Beryl-Spangled Tanager

Mitre Parakeets

Green and white Hummingbird*

Scater's Tyrannulet

Inca Wren*

Hepatic Tanager

Pale-legged Warbler

Total 12 species

Day 16

Thursday 11th October

A full morning at Aguas Calientes gave us all plenty of time to relax. We divided our time between exploring the town and birding down the road to Puente Ruinas and its various markets and strolling around the bird-rich forested grounds of the hotel. A host of hummingbirds visiting the various feeders included dozens of Chestnut-breasted Coronets, several Collared Incas, a few Green-and-white and Hummingbirds, and at least one Long-tailed Sylph. Tanagers were conspicuous too and included Blue-necked, Saffron-crowned, Blue-and-yellow, Hepatic, Silver-backed and a pair of dazzling little Blue-naped Chlorophonias. Climbing the trees we found Andean Guan, White-throated Quail Dove, Highland Motmot, and Golden-olive Woodpecker. A wide range of other small bird during this excellent morning included Streak-necked Flycatcher, Scater's Tyrannulet, Rusty Flowerpiercer, Blue Dacnis, Russet-crowned Warbler, Slaty-throated Redstart, Tropical Parula, Thick-billed Euphonia and Grey-breasted Wood-Wren

After a delicious lunch we caught the mid-afternoon train back towards Cusco. The journey along the Urubamba Valley was as spectacular as ever and once again enlivened by a series of Torrent Ducks on the river. We transferred to a bus at Ollantaytambo and stopped in another Andean lake called "Piuray" where Andean Geese and Silvery Grebe were the highlights. We then continued our way back to Cusco, arriving at the end of the afternoon with time to pop out for that last supper in Cusco at the end of our trip.

New birds seen today:

*Peruvian Endemic

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Andean Goose | Silvery Grebe |
| Ocellated Piculet | Common Tody-Flycatcher |
| Marbled-faced Bristled Tyrant | Brown-Capped Vireo |
| White-eared Solitaire | Andean Slaty-Thrush |
| Blue-capped Tanager | Silver-backed Tanager |
| Bright-rumped Yellow Finch | Dull-Collared Grassquit |
| Black-backed Grosbeak | Capped Conebill |

Total 14 species

Day 17

Friday 12th October

This morning we flew back to Lima. Here we visited the Archaeological Museum and many of the old buildings in the city's historic centre. In the evening we left for Lima airport where the tour came to its close.

Day 18

Saturday 13th October

Arrive back in Europe

Total number of birds seen during the whole trip: 435 species

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